



City of Wheatland

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

Date: October 24, 2010

Agenda Item:

Subject: Consider authorizing City Manager to spend wastewater treatment facilities development fee funds to evaluate, plan and implement wastewater treatment plant expansion alternatives.

Prepared by: Stephen L. Wright, City Manager

Recommendation: Council authorize the City Manager, in consultation with the City Engineer, to spend up to \$50,000 from the wastewater treatment facilities development fee fund in order to work on the expansion, improvement and/or replacement of the wastewater treatment plant, including evaluation of alternatives, technical studies and plans, preliminary engineering, environmental review, land and rights-of-way survey and acquisition, permitting, and related regulatory agency consultation.

Discussion: The existing City wastewater treatment plant is inadequate to accommodate the growth projections in the City General Plan. Additionally, because of state regulations, it is possible that the Regional Water Quality Control Board may require the City at some point in the future to increase the level of treatment or change the method of discharge.

With the ongoing recession, new building in the City continues to be minimal. Consequently, at this time, the City lacks advance funding from new development as a means to fund wastewater treatment plant studies and improvements. However, even without current new building, it is prudent for the City to continue to study, evaluate and implement its wastewater treatment plant expansion alternatives and make related plans. The City Engineer and City Manager have evaluated this issue and concur that City staff should proceed with work on the treatment plant, to the extent of available development fee funds. With past development and building, the City has accumulated some money in its wastewater treatment facilities development fee fund that may be used for these purposes.

In order to keep moving forward on the expansion, improvement and/or replacement of the wastewater treatment plant, staff requests the City Council to authorize the expenditure of some money on deposit in the wastewater treatment facilities development fee fund for these purposes.

Alternatives: The Council could proceed with future WWTP project activities on an issue by issue basis.

Fiscal Impact: None to the General Fund. All funding used for this purpose would be from the AB 1600 Treatment Plant impact fee fund.